

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 16, 2004 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claim 1 has been cancelled and claims 2, 3 and 7 have been amended. No new matter has been added, and no new issues are raised which require further consideration and/or search. Claims 5 and 6 were allowed. Claims 2-4 and 7 are submitted for consideration.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,667,123 to Denk et al. Claim 1 has been cancelled and claims 3 and 7 has been amended and are dependent upon allowed claimed 5. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 102(b) be withdrawn because Denk et al. does not teach or suggest all of the elements recited in allowed claim 5 and hence dependent claims 3 and 7.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S. C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Denk et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,910,816 to Dohogne. Claim 2 has been amended and is dependent upon allowed claimed 5. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 103(a) be withdrawn because neither Denk et al. nor Dohogne, whether taken singly or combined, teaches or suggests all of the elements recited in allowed claim 5 and hence dependent claim 2.

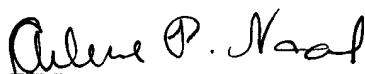
Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S. C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Denk et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,424,632 to Montagu. Claim 4 has been amended and is dependent upon allowed claimed 5. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 103(a) be withdrawn because neither Denk et al. nor Montagu, whether taken singly or combined, teaches or suggests all of the elements recited in allowed claim 5 and hence dependent claim 4.

As noted previously, claims 2-4 and 7 recite subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art references cited in the Office Action. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 2-7 be allowed and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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